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Oui, oui: Jill Biden is in Paris to mark the U.S. return to the U.N.'s educational and scientific agency

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Jill Biden has represented her country at the Olympics in Tokyo, a king's coronation in London and a royal wedding in Jordan. She gets another chance to put her ambassadorial skills to work this week when the United States formally rejoins a United Nations agency devoted to education, science and culture around the globe. Biden arrived in Paris early Monday, accompanied by her daughter, Ashley Biden, after flying overnight from Washington to join other VIPs and speak at a ceremony Tuesday at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The American flag will be raised to mark the U.S. return to UNESCO membership after a five-year absence.

Continued on Page 2



The logo of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is seen during the 39th session of the General Conference at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, Nov. 4, 2017.

Associated Press



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Oui, oui: Jill Biden is in Paris to mark the U.S. return to the U.N.'s educational and scientific agency

Continued from Front

UNESCO aims to foster global collaboration in education, science and culture. It also designates World Heritage sites, deeming them worthy of eternal preservation.

The agency on Sunday condemned Russia's attack on a cathedral in Odesa and other heritage sites in Ukraine in recent days and said it will send a team to the Black Sea port city to assess damage.

In a statement, UNESCO noted that Odesa's historic center was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site earlier this year and said attacks by Russian forces contradict recent promises by Russian authorities to take precautions to spare such sites across the country.

Before returning to Washington on Wednesday, Biden will tour a historic venue in France, Mont-Saint-Michel, a 1,000-year-old Benedictine abbey that was listed as a World Heritage site in 1979. It sits on an island in Normandy, in the north of the country. A daughter and mother of U.S. service members, the first lady will also visit Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial to pay respects to the more than 4,400 U.S.



First lady Jill Biden speaks during an event with the National Education Association in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus, Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

service members buried there, most of whom died in Normandy and Brittany during World War II. She will also stop at the Elysée Palace in Paris on Tuesday to catch up with Brigitte Macron, a former teacher and the wife of French President Emmanuel Macron. The women have met several times over the past two years, including in Washington last December when Macron was on a state visit to the U.S.

Senior Biden administration officials said returning to UNESCO fits President Joe Biden's goal of strengthening global partnerships and recommitting to American leadership at the U.N. and other international organi-

zations to serve as a counter to nations that do not share U.S. values.

Others said Jill Biden, who teaches English and writing at a Virginia community college, was best suited to represent the United States in Paris on Tuesday.

"The first lady, as a lifelong educator and believer in the power of educational opportunity across the world, is honored to help celebrate this important milestone," said Elizabeth Alexander, a spokesperson. "She looks forward to raising the flag for the United States once again at the UNESCO headquarters, showing our country's commitment to international cooperation in education,

science, and culture."

The U.S. pulled out of the Paris-based organization in 2018, under then-President Donald Trump, a Republican who claimed UNESCO was biased against Israel.

The administration of Biden, a Democrat, pushed to rejoin over concerns that China was filling the void in leadership created by the U.S. absence.

The administration announced in June that it would apply to rejoin the 193-member organization, which also plays a major role in setting international standards for artificial intelligence and technology education.

The organization's governing board voted earlier this month to approve the Biden plan to rejoin, and the U.S. delivered a document certifying that it would accept the invitation to become the 194th member of UNESCO.

"Our organization is once again moving towards universality," UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay said at the time. She cast the U.S. return as "excellent news for multilateralism as a whole. If we want to meet the challenges of our century, there can only be a collective response."

The Trump administration in 2017 announced that the

U.S. would withdraw from UNESCO, citing anti-Israel bias. That decision took effect a year later.

The U.S. and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011. The Biden administration has requested \$150 million for the 2024 budget to go toward UNESCO dues and arrears. The plan foresees similar requests for the ensuing years until the full debt of \$619 million is repaid.

That makes up a big chunk of UNESCO's \$534 million annual operating budget. Before leaving, the U.S. contributed 22% of the agency's overall funding.

The United States previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Reagan administration in 1984 because it viewed the agency as mismanaged, corrupt and used to advance Soviet interests. It rejoined in 2003 during George W. Bush's presidency. Bush's wife, Laura, a former elementary school teacher and librarian, spoke at that ceremony.

Standing in for the president at home and abroad has become a big part of a first lady's unofficial job description, and Jill Biden travels at least several times a week to promote administration initiatives. □



Migrants who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico walk past large buoys being deployed as a border barrier on the river in Eagle Pass, Texas, Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Associated Press

By **PAUL J. WEBER** and **VALERIE GONZALEZ**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Justice Department on Monday sued Texas Republican Gov. Greg Ab-

bott over a floating barrier that the state placed on the Rio Grande to stop migrants from crossing into the U.S. from Mexico.

The lawsuit asks a court to force Texas to remove a

Biden administration sues Texas governor over Rio Grande buoy barrier

roughly 1,000-foot (305-meter) line of bright orange, wrecking ball-sized buoys that the Biden administration says raises humanitarian and environmental concerns. The suit also claims that Texas unlawfully installed the barrier along without permission near the border city of Eagle Pass.

The buoys are the latest escalation of Texas' border security operation that also includes razor-wire fencing, arresting migrants on trespassing charges and sending busloads of asylum-seekers to Democratic-led cities in other states.

In anticipation of the lawsuit, Abbott sent President Joe Biden a letter Monday that defended Texas' right to install the barrier. He accused Biden of putting migrants at risk by not doing more to deter them from making the journey to the U.S.

"Texas will see you in court, Mr. President," Abbott wrote in his letter.

The Biden administration has said illegal border crossings have declined significantly since new immigration rules took effect in May.

The Justice Department

warned Texas in a letter last week that the state had until Monday to commit to removing the barrier or face a lawsuit. The letter said the buoy wall "poses a risk to navigation, as well as public safety, in the Rio Grande River, and it presents humanitarian concerns."

The state deployed the buoys without notifying the International Boundary and Water Commission or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mexico's secretary of state asked the federal government to intervene, saying the barrier violates international treaties. □

Authorities search for grizzly bear that killed woman near Yellowstone National Park

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Montana (AP) — Authorities searched Monday for a grizzly bear that attacked and killed a woman on a trail west of Yellowstone National Park near the Montana-Idaho border. The victim's body was found Saturday morning a few hundred yards (meters) from a trailhead and private campground. There was no sign that the bear, which was traveling with at least one cub, tried to eat the victim, who appears to have been jogging when she was fatally mauled, said Morgan Jacobsen with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Authorities said the woman's injuries were "consistent with a bear attack." But they could not say for certain whether she was preyed upon or whether it was a chance encounter as she traveled alone in a wooded area frequented by grizzly and black bears. A hiker found her body along the trail at around 8 a.m. Saturday, authorities said. The victim's name has not been released. She was wearing running shoes and did not have bear spray, a deterrent that wildlife experts recommend people carry in areas frequented by bears, Jacobsen said. "This person was likely out for a morning jog along the



A bear trap set by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is seen on July 7, 2021, in Ovando, Mont. Associated Press

trail and that's when this happened," said Jacobsen. Tracks of a grizzly bear and at least one cub were found at the scene of the attack, which occurred near the Buttermilk Trailhead 8 miles (13 kilometers) west of West Yellowstone, a busy summer tourist town and gateway to the national park. The hiking trail also is used by people ATVs and other off-road vehicles. Rangers issued an emergency closure for areas of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. It did not include

Yellowstone National Park. Local resident Bill Youngwirth said people in the area were aware of the mauling and the forest closure, but weren't panicked over the attack due to speculation that it was a mother bear striking out defensively after being surprised when the victim came around a corner. The attack happened about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from several vacation homes that Youngwirth rents adjacent to the forest. "I tell everybody, 'Better take bear spray and know how to use it,'" he said.

"And the big thing is, don't go alone." A trail camera captured an image of a grizzly bear with two cubs in the area on Saturday night. There have been no sightings since, Jacobsen said. Traps set for the bears on Saturday and Sunday nights came up empty, and attempts to locate the bears from an aircraft were unsuccessful. Authorities had not decided if they would set traps again Monday night or decided whether they would kill or relocate the adult bear if it is captured, Jacobsen said.

As time goes by, he added, trapping becomes less effective as chances increase of catching a bear that wasn't involved in the attack. Grizzly bear populations in the northern U.S. Rocky Mountains grew significantly over the past several and the animals in recent years have been showing up in places they hadn't been seen for generations. Since 2010, grizzlies in and around Yellowstone have killed at least nine people. Attacks remain relatively rare in the region, which draws several million tourists each summer. A backcountry guide was killed near West Yellowstone two years ago when he was mauled by a large grizzly bear that wildlife officials said was probably defending a nearby moose carcass. And a hiker was killed north of Yellowstone park last year in a suspected grizzly encounter in a remote area of the Absaroka Mountains south of Livingston, Montana. Encounters with humans can prove deadly for bears, too: A five-year-old female grizzly in Glacier National Park was euthanized last week after officials said it got used to eating food from campgrounds and was becoming increasingly aggressive. □

IRS is ending unannounced visits to taxpayers to protect worker safety and combat scammers

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service said Monday it is ending its decades-old policy of making unannounced home and business visits, in an effort to help keep its workers safe and to combat scammers who pose as IRS agents. Effective immediately, revenue agents will no longer make unplanned visits to taxpay-

ers' homes and businesses "except in a few unique circumstances," the Treasury Department said in a statement. The agency will instead mail letters to people to schedule meetings. "Today's announcement is the right thing to do, at the right time," new IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel told reporters on a call Monday. The change ends "an era at the IRS," he said, reversing a practice by revenue of-

ficers whose duties include visiting homes and firms to resolve taxpayers' liabilities by collecting unpaid taxes and unfiled tax returns. The agency in recent years has experienced more threats, in part tied to conspiracy theories that agents were going to target middle-income taxpayers more aggressively after the passage of a climate, health care and tax bill that provided \$80 billion



A sign outside the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, on May 4, 2021. Associated Press

to step up tax collections. In response, the agency last August announced a comprehensive review of safety at its facilities. And

in May, the agency said it would begin limiting workers' personal identifying information on communications with taxpayers. □

Miami's police chief shot himself while with wife, Florida media report. He survived

By FREIDA FRISARO

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)

— The director of the Miami-Dade Police Department was in stable condition after surgery in a Tampa area hospital, the Miami-Dade mayor said Monday, amid reports from local media that he had shot himself.

Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez, 52, was in Tampa for a law enforcement conference, officials said.

"Following a critical injury in Tampa yesterday, Chief Ramirez is hospitalized and in critical but stable condition," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, adding that "that 'All that matters right now is Chief Ramirez's well-being.'"

Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister told Tampa TV station WFLA that Ramirez shot himself Sunday night during a domestic dispute after stopping his car along Interstate 75 south of Tampa, where the sheriff's conference was underway.

The Miami Herald and WPLG reported that Ramirez's wife, Jody, was traveling with him at the



Newly appointed Miami-Dade Police Department director Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez talks during the press conference at Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

time.

The Associated Press has not independently confirmed those accounts of the shooting. But according to a Tampa police report, Ramirez had pointed a gun at himself during an argument Sunday, showing there were issues before the reported shooting.

Ramirez is a 27-year Miami-

Dade police veteran and was leading the largest law enforcement agency in the southeastern U.S. In May, he announced his intention to seek election for the newly-created role of sheriff in 2024, signaling his desire to remain the leading law enforcement official.

The Florida Department of

Law Enforcement said it, along with the Florida Highway Patrol, is investigating the "incident."

"We have been advised by local law enforcement agencies that our Director, Alfredo 'Freddy' Ramirez, has suffered a critical injury in the Tampa area," a statement from the Miami-Dade Police Department

said. "We ask you to please keep him in your prayers."

The state's law enforcement agency said no one else was injured and there is no threat to the community.

Details regarding Ramirez's injury or how it happened were not immediately confirmed by state or Miami officials.

"We will provide information as it becomes available," the Miami-Dade Police Department statement said.

A spokeswoman for Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told The AP that the mayor traveled to Tampa after the shooting to "support Director Ramirez and his family." She deferred all other inquiries to the state's law enforcement investigating agency. A Tampa police report said officers were called to the downtown Marriott Waterside regarding reports of a man pointing a gun at himself outside the hotel during an argument with a woman. The report did not include the name of the woman with Ramirez, but the local news outlets identified her as his wife. □

Minneapolis backs off arrests for psychedelic plant use

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

— Minneapolis is backing away from enforcing laws that criminalize buying psychedelic plants or using them in private.

Mayor Jacob Frey on Friday ordered police to stop using taxpayer dollars to enforce most laws against hallucinogenic plants. Minneapolis still prioritizes enforcing laws against selling psychedelic plants, bringing them to schools or using them while driving.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara in a statement said he stands by the mayor's decision.

Announcing the order, Frey cited the potential for hallucinogenic plants to treat mental illnesses including

depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Experts are telling us that these plants help people, and that's the business we should be in — helping people," Frey said in a statement.

"With a rise in deaths of despair in our city, and in our society, the data is showing that these plants can help be a remedy."



A vendor bags psilocybin mushrooms at a pop-up cannabis market on May 24, 2019. Minneapolis is backing away from enforcing laws that criminalize psychedelic plants.

Associated Press

Some researchers believe psilocybin, the compound in psychedelic mushrooms, changes the way the brain organizes itself and can help users overcome things like depression, alcoholism and post-traumatic stress disorder. A drug that's related to the anesthetic ketamine was cleared by the FDA to help people with hard-to-treat depression. But medical experts caution that more research is needed on the drugs' efficacy and the extent of the risks of psychedelics, which can cause hallucinations. The American Psychiatric Association has not endorsed the use of psychedelics in treatment, noting the Food and Drug Administration has yet to of-

fer a final determination. The FDA designated psilocybin as a "breakthrough therapy" in 2018, a label that's designed to speed the development and review of drugs to treat a serious condition. MDMA, also known as ecstasy, also has that designation for PTSD treatment. The FDA in June released draft guidance for researchers designing clinical trials testing psychedelic drugs as potential treatments for a variety of medical conditions. The Biden administration has also provided to the National Institutes of Health and other agencies funding for dozens of projects studying psychedelic drugs with potential benefit for mental and behavioral health. □

North Korea fires 2 short-range ballistic missiles

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said Tuesday, adding to a recent streak in weapons testing that is apparently in protest of the U.S. sending major naval assets to South Korea in a show of force.

In its third round of launches since last week, North Korea fired the missiles just before midnight from an area near its capital, Pyongyang, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. It said both missiles traveled around 400 kilometers (248 miles) before landing in waters off the Korean Peninsula's eastern coast.

Its statement called North Korea's missile launches a "grave provocation" that threatens regional peace and stability.

The launches came hours after South Korea's navy said a nuclear-propelled U.S. submarine the USS Annapolis arrived at a port on Jeju Island. That underscored the allies' efforts to boost the visibility of U.S. strategic assets in the region to intimidate the North. Last week, the USS Kentucky became the first U.S. nuclear-armed submarine to come to South Korea since the 1980s. North Korea reacted to its arrival



In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, the USS nuclear-powered submarine USS Annapolis docks at a South Korean naval base on Jeju Island, South Korea, Monday, July 24, 2023. Associated Press

by test-firing ballistic and cruise missiles last week in apparent demonstrations that it could make nuclear strikes on South Korea and deployed U.S. naval vessels. Also on Monday, the American-led U.N. Command said it has started "a conversation" with North Korea about a U.S. soldier who ran into the North last week across one of the world's most heavily fortified borders.

Andrew Harrison, a British lieutenant general who is deputy commander at the U.N. Command, which oversees implementation of the 1953 armistice that ended fighting in the Kore-

an War, declined to comment about the state of the inquiry to North Korea or say what the command knows about Pvt. Travis King's condition.

"I am in life an optimist, and I remain optimistic," Harrison said during a news conference in Seoul. In Washington, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said North Korea had only "acknowledged" receiving the U.N. message last week and had not provided any information or commented further since then.

"There have been no new contacts since last week," Miller said, adding that

North Korea also had not responded to messages sent by U.S. civilian or military officials.

The U.S. still has not been able to ascertain King's condition, a senior administration official said Monday in Washington. Asked if U.S. officials had a better understanding of whether King intended to defect, the official said they still had "no indication about what was going on in his mind that day." The official was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Analysts say North Korea may wait weeks or even months to provide mean-

ingful information about King to maximize leverage and add urgency to U.S. efforts to secure his release. Some say North Korea may try to wrest concessions from Washington, such as tying his release to the United States cutting back its military activities with South Korea. King's crossing came at a time of high tensions in the Korean Peninsula, where the pace of both North Korea's weapons demonstrations and the United States' combined military exercises have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle. In between the ballistic and cruise missile launches last week, North Korea's defense minister also issued a veiled threat, saying the Kentucky's docking in South Korea could be grounds for the North to use a nuclear weapon against it. North Korea has used similar rhetoric before, but the statement underscored how strained relations are now.

The United States and South Korea have expanded their combined military exercises and increased regional deployments of U.S. aircraft and ships, including bombers, aircraft carriers and submarines to counter the nuclear threats posed by North Korea, which has test-fired around 100 missiles since the start of 2022. □

Radical British preacher Anjem Choudary is charged with directing a terrorist organization



This is a Friday, April 3, 2015 file photo of Anjem Choudary, a British Muslim social and political activist and spokesman for Islamist group, Islam4UK, speaks following prayers at the Central London Mosque in Regent's Park, London.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — High-profile British radical preacher Anjem Choudary appeared in a London court on Monday, charged with leading a terrorist organization.

Choudary, 56, was charged Sunday with three counts under the Terrorism Act: directing a terrorist organization, membership in a banned organization and addressing meetings to encourage support for the organization between June 2022 and this month.

Prosecutors say the charges relate to the radical Muslim group al-Muhajiroun, which

was outlawed by the British government in 2010.

It has since operated "under many names and guises," including the Islamic Thinkers Society, prosecutors say.

Prosecutors allege Choudary gave lectures for the Islamic Thinkers Society "on the establishment of an Islamic state in Britain and how to radicalize people," the BBC reported.

He was arrested at his home in London in July 17.

He was charged alongside with Canadian national Khaled Hussein, 28, who

was arrested at Heathrow Airport the same day after arriving on a flight.

Hussein, from Edmonton, Alberta, is charged with membership in a proscribed organization.

Prosecutors say he worked online with Choudary to provide "a platform" for the group's views.

Neither man entered a plea during separate hearings at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

Both were ordered detained until their next hearing at the Central Criminal Court on Aug. 4. □

UN chief urges Russia to revive grain deal with Ukraine, warning 'the most vulnerable' will suffer

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The U.N. chief on Monday urged Russia to resume the internationally brokered deal so that grain can be shipped from Ukraine's Black Sea ports, saying that otherwise, the world's most vulnerable among the hungry will suffer the worst consequences.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made the appeal during a speech in Rome at the opening of a three-day food summit.

With the recent collapse of the Ukraine-Russia grain deal, "the most vulnerable will pay the highest price," Guterres said. He lamented that there are already negative effects on global wheat and corn prices.

Wheat prices have risen more than 14% since Monday, when Russia pulled out of the grain deal, and corn prices are up more than 10%.

Both Russia and Ukraine are "essential to global food security," the U.N. leader said. He noted that they have historically accounted for 30% of global wheat and barley exports, a fifth of all maize and more than



U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, left, and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni arrive for the opening session of a three-day U.N. Food and Agriculture Agency's summit on food systems in Rome, Monday, July 24, 2023.

Associated Press

half of all sunflower oil.

"For my part, I remain committed to facilitating unimpeded access to global markets for food products and fertilizer from both Ukraine and the Russian Federation and to deliver the food security every person deserves," Guterres said. "I call on the Russian Federation to return to the implementation of the

Black Sea Initiative, in line with my latest proposal," Guterres said, urging the international community to stand united to find solutions for the issue.

Russia's refusal to renew the accord triggered the deal's collapse earlier this month.

It said the Black Sea Initiative would be suspended until demands to get Rus-

sian exports of food and fertilizer to the world are met.

The accord had been brokered by the United Nations and Turkey as a way to keep grain flowing to developing countries, especially in Africa and the Middle East, despite the war unleashed by Moscow against Ukraine in February 2022. When the grain deal was struck, the

U.N. World Food Program regained a top supplier, allowing 725,000 metric tons of humanitarian food aid to leave Ukraine and reach countries on the brink of famine, including Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Yemen.

The deal's suspension as well as Russian attacks on the Black Sea ports of Ukraine have irked Russian ally China and as well as developing nations heavily dependent on the shipments to feed their people. Besides the grain deal, the effects of climate change on food production and distribution will figure in discussions at the Rome summit.

"We need food systems that can help end this senseless war on our planet," Guterres said. "Transformation means new, sustainable food systems that can reduce the carbon footprint of food processing, packaging and transportation."

Such transformation also demands that governments and businesses "take stronger and faster action to tackle the climate crisis and deliver environmental and climate justice," he added. □

Mayor of Ecuador port city slain in shooting that kills 1 other, wounds 4

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) —

The mayor of Ecuador's third largest city was slain Sunday in a shooting that killed one other person and wounded four more, including two suspected attackers, officials said.

Agustín Intriago, a 38-year-old lawyer, belonged to the local Better City movement in the port city of Manta and was recently re-elected to a term that began in May.

On his Twitter account, Interior Minister Juan Zapata reported Intriago's slaying and the other casualties. He said the two wounded people suspected of be-

ing involved in the attack were receiving medical at-

tention under police surveillance.



Soldiers leave the after taking control of the Litoral Penitentiary where a riot broke out that so far has left 5 prisoners dead, according to a statement from authorities, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Sunday, July 23, 2023.

Associated Press

A motive for the attack, which occurred while the mayor was making a neighborhood visit, was not immediately disclosed.

President Guillermo Lasso wrote on Twitter that he had instructed the country's highest police authority to locate those responsible. Police reported that specialized units were deployed at the scene.

The victim's sister, Ana Intriago, wrote on her Twitter account that "this crime cannot go unpunished. ... Let's not let them win."

Manta is about 260 kilometers (160 miles) southwest of Ecuador's capital,

Quito, on a section of Pacific coast used by gangs to move large shipments of drugs to other parts of the Americas and Europe.

Ecuador is gripped by a serious outbreak of violence that authorities attribute to disputes among organized crime groups. The government is also grappling with a surge in crime that includes armed attacks, kidnappings, robberies and extortion. Authorities also said Sunday that a battle between rival gang members held in a prison in Guayaquil had resulted in the five inmates being killed and 11 wounded. □

Aruba ambassadors Skipp and Winnie celebrated 65th wedding anniversary here in Aruba

This couple has been coming to Aruba twice a year for the last 39 years and already have tickets ready for their 40th year.

Skipp and Winnie are blessed with 3 kids, 6 grand kids and 6 great grand kids and owners of Speed Garage for the last 62 years. They still look like 40 years and have an amazing energy to continue coming to Aruba. Skipp is a superb mechanic also an ordained minister and had performed many vows renewals here in Aruba and Winnie was a school teacher for 36 years. This power couple is one of our visitors that integrated in our community and been loved by so many locals.

Happy anniversary to Skipp and Winnie and now looking forward for the 70th. □

Photo by Steve Francees.



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledg-

ing their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a to-

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Casa Del Mar Beach Resort

ken of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, and 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
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The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors Mr.

Milton & Mrs. Vivian Turner from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to

Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Turner were:

Aruba's welcoming people. Aruba's sunny weather all year round. Aruba's picturesque sunsets & crystal-clear blue waters. The variety of restaurants to choose from. Aruba's safety.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Turner for always having Aruba dear to their hearts. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Antoinetta DeWit from Maple Ridge** British Columbia, Canada.

She wrote to us saying; "Antoinetta DeWit is a regular Aruba visitor hailing from Canada. For her Aruba is a gift to her and for her. It is her place for peace of mind and relaxation. Her piece of paradise and especially appreciated now during her retirement days!."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □





Remember Amuse Bistro?...

They're back with a new concept; The Journey



Known for their successful and top-notch establishments Amuse Bistro and Amuse Sunset, Chef Patrick van der Donk and his wife Yvette, who is a certified sommelier, are back with their latest gastronomic adventure that is now to be found at The Journey, beside the famous red windmill (De Olde Moulin) just off Eagle Beach, and will surely bring a brand new concept to take you on a culinary journey you will never forget.

A family of 5, Chef Patrick, his wife Yvette and their 8 year old triplet sons, started their trajectory about a decade ago, with the renowned and loved Amuse Bistro that saw immense success. Due to a tragic incident in which the restaurant burned down, they gathered all their strength and continued their success at a new location behind the airport, as a brand new beginning named Amuse Sunset until they saw it come to an end. After overcoming unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic, the family is stronger than ever and reading to begin a new adventure and welcome you aboard.

The Journey offers a brand new, elegant and chic concept. Taking the table in 'Chef's Table' to heart, this new interpretation of 'chef's table' features stand-alone tables which seat only 20 patrons, all who must arrive before 7pm. Once you choose to embark on this adventure, the night will start once you arrived at your destination, right next to the mill in Palm Beach, where you will be welcomed with a toast of bubbles (on the house) on the terrace while you wait for the beginning of an unforgettable night. Once the clock hits 7pm, you will be taken into the restaurant for a magical five-course Chef's choice pre-fixed menu that will take your taste buds on a high class world tour.

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The Journey is open from Mon-Fri and is reservation only, we ask that all guests with a reservation arrive before 7pm. For further questions or information, refer to their website <https://thejourneyaruba.com/> or contact Yvette at +297 565 0535

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Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that

is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found

all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of



the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.

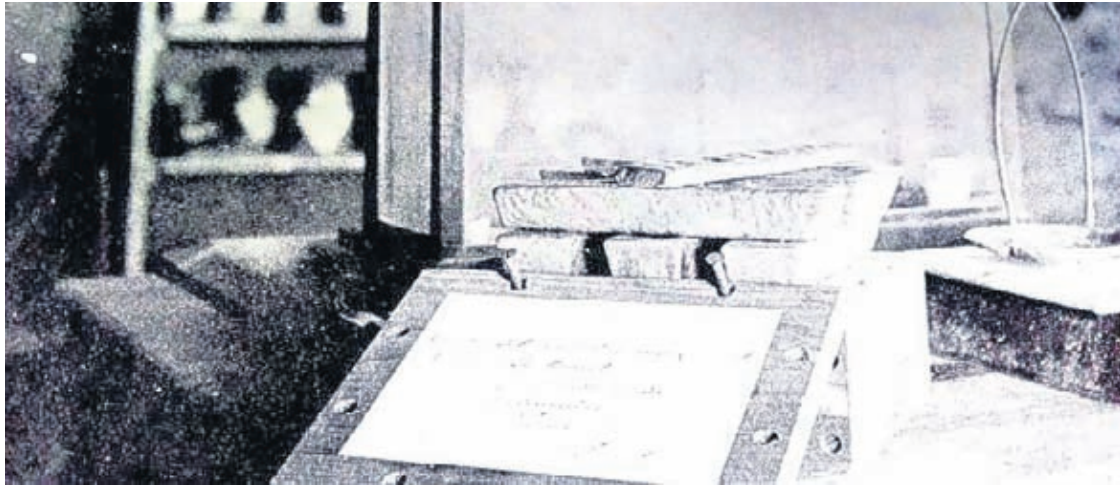
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: whenina-ruba.com

Episode 28

Yes! Aruba had its own gold rush



Geological exploration was officially conducted in 1725. The search for mineral ores was funded by The Amsterdam Chamber, Head Office of the Dutch West India Company. These gentlemen sent a certain Mr. Paulus Printz to the island, who had to perform soil research under the title of director mountain worker.

After searching in vain on Curaçao and on Bonaire, he headed to Aruba and searched on the Cristalberg, dug a subterranean passage in Sero Colorado and sent barrels of stone containing ore as samples to Amsterdam. Only a minimal amount of gold and silver was found, so the decision was taken to discontinue the efforts by Printz. After three years of trudging through the rock-hard Aruban soil, he left Aruba again.

One hundred years later in March 1824 a gold rock was discovered in Rooi Fluit on the North coast, as one told by a 12-year old boy, Willem Rasmijn, who was looking after his father's sheep there. Willem saw something sparkling on a spot washed out by the rain. His father not knowing what it was showed it to a merchant in Oranjestad. The latter realized that it was gold and offered the man \$ 17.00 Rasmijn accepted and the merchant later sold it for \$ 70.00.

The rumor spread very rapidly, of course, and every boy and girl who tended sheep, as was the custom,



started searching the arroyos (dry beds of rivulets). Soon an Indian girl found a piece of gold at Rooi Daimari.

Understandably, On July 1824 J. Thielen who was the islands Commander at the time, immediately took measures by informing the Governor P.R. Cantz'laar at Curacao, that gold has been found on Aruba. Two lumps of gold -ore was send as proof. The legend of the Aruba gold turned out to be reality. For the boot-less blows of Printz's sledge hammer a century ago.

The regions where gold was found were declared "not free". Soldiers came to guard these terrains. Daimari, Lagabai (Rooi

Fluit), Wacobana, Arikok en Hadicurari were the most important places where gold was found. Most of it was alluvial, that came to the surface as native gold. When systematical research was introduced later on, gold-ore was also found in the western part of Aruba, especially at Tibushi.

At first everyone was allowed to look for gold, providing the gold was handed over to the government against a set price. In 1854 this system was abandoned and gold-mining was granted to a concession-holder.

Primitive gold- mining

In looking for gold one went about in a very primitive way. Everywhere clay was dug out from the ar-



royos and put to dry in the sun. Then the hardened parts were beaten into small pieces. If there was any gold, the bigger pieces would naturally come free and when this happened, one knew that there were possibly smaller pieces as well. To find these, the finely beaten clay was ground on a large piece of sail-cloth, after which the wind blew off the sand, leaving behind the small pieces of gold.

Another system was to dilute the clay with water in large vessels, so that the gold sank to the bottom.

When commercial firms came in 1854, machinery was imported, among which crushing mills.

Smelting Works

In 1872 the Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. Built a large smelting works at Bushiribana on the North coast, for the ore that was being mined at Cero Plat and in its surroundings. This smelting works was in use for only ten years, but its construction was so solid,

that ruins thereof at the North coast are still quite impressive.

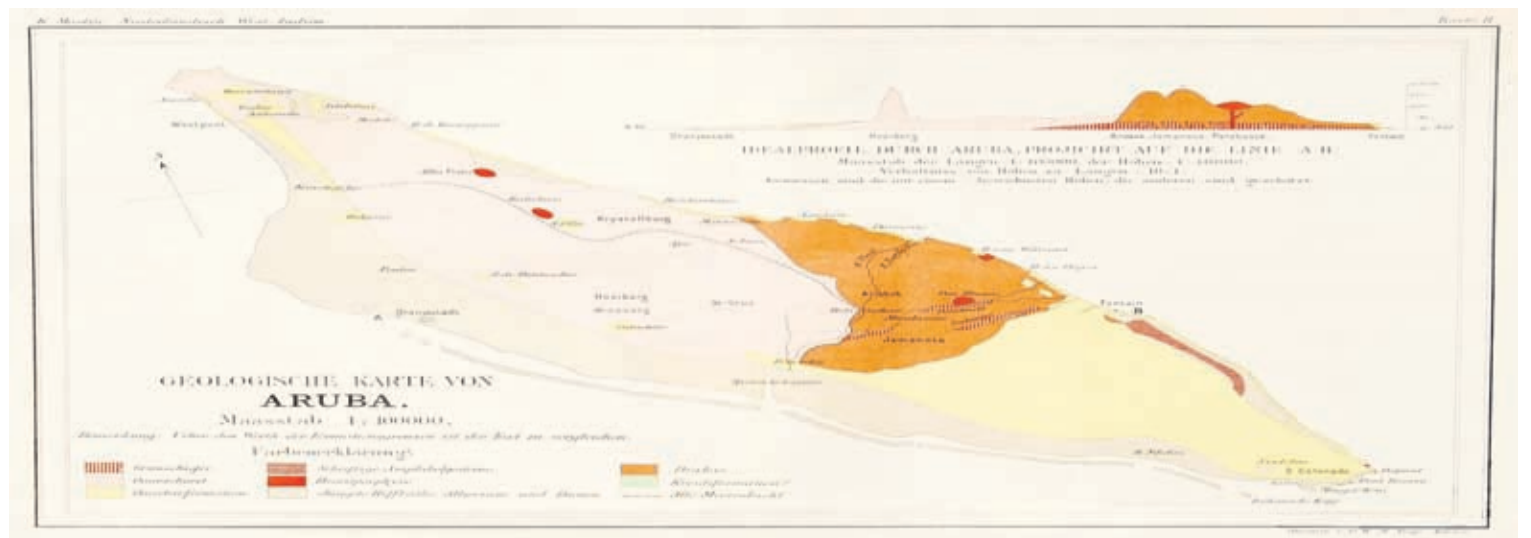
A next concession-holder, Aruba Gold Concessions Ltd., worked principally in the center of the island and had a smelting works built at Balashi in 1899, of which not only crumbling walls, but even kettles and ovens are still left.

A last attempt

In 1916 gold-mining in Aruba had to be ceased; due to the First World War the materials required for the purification of the ores could no longer be had. During the 92 years since the discovery of gold in 1824, 2962.50 pounds of gold have been exported. An attempt made in 1946 to resume gold-mining in a modern way, proved however not to be profitable.

Yet there still is gold in the Aruba's soil, even though you would have to be very lucky to find some on your excursions on the island. □

**Source; Island Insight column
by Etnia Nativa.**



History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head

quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The kingfish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption,



to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing.

There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and

'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Low points
- 7 Kaffiyeh wearer
- 11 Broad street
- 12 Long skirt
- 13 Supported
- 15 Debate topic
- 16 "In — veritas"
- 18 Golf bunker
- 21 Join the choir
- 22 Latitude
- 24 Refinery supply
- 25 Black goo
- 26 "— you for real?"
- 27 Sack material
- 29 Sacred chests
- 30 Mix up
- 31 Entreaty
- 32 Shopworn
- 34 Re-activated
- 40 Words of understanding
- 41 Canada's capital
- 42 Rock group
- 43 Put online

DOWN

- 1 Arrest

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TAMPA	LENT
EURO	YEP
STARTERS	
LOSS	FIESTA
ATEAM	EMAIL
PEANUT	ISLE
DRENCHES	
HIP	DAYO
IDAHO	ELATE
TOPIC	TOWER
SLASH	SNEER

Yesterday's answer

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| 2 Gardner of movies | 20 Winter coat | 33 On the pinnacle of |
| 3 Last mo. | 21 Cry loudly | 34 Triangular sail |
| 4 Comic book work | 22 Napkin spot | 35 "Born in the —" |
| 5 Rene of "Get Shorty" | 23 "You bet!" | 36 Fellows |
| 6 Collec-tions | 25 Bakery buys | 37 Skin art, for short |
| 7 Current unit | 28 Had a speech problem | 38 She sheep |
| 8 Grammys category | 29 Tips off | 39 Pop |
| 9 Chopping tool | 31 Student of Socrates | |
| 10 Bridge action | | |
| 14 External | | |
| 16 Computer woe | | |
| 17 Like argon | | |
| 19 In the know | | |

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40					41				
42					43				

7-25

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

RS KOJ RDS. YPZ BPO MZS

JMUS PY SMZWK. RS XPRDS.

YPZ BPO MZS JMUS PY NWMZN.

— NSZRLMX CZPESZR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOT JULY BRINGS COOLING SHOWERS. APRICOTS AND GILLYFLOWERS. — SARA COLERIDGE

Elon Musk reveals new 'X' logo to replace Twitter's blue bird

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Goodbye

Twitter. Hello X.

Elon Musk has unveiled a new "X" logo to replace Twitter's famous blue bird as he follows through with a major rebranding of the social media platform he bought for \$44 billion last year. The X started appearing at the top of the desktop version of Twitter on Monday, but the bird was still dominant across the smartphone app. In response to questions about what tweets would be called when the rebranding is done, Musk said they would be called Xs.

It's yet another change that Musk has made since acquiring Twitter that has alienated users and turned off advertisers, leaving the microblogging site vulnerable to new threats, including rival Meta's new text-based app Threads that directly targets Twitter users. Musk had asked fans for logo ideas and chose one, which he described as minimalist Art Deco, saying it "certainly will be refined." He replaced his own Twitter icon with a white X on a black background and posted a picture of the design projected on Twitter's San Francisco headquarters. "And soon we shall bid adieu to the twitter brand and, gradually, all the birds," Musk tweeted Sunday. The X.com web domain now redirects users to Twitter.com, Musk said.

"I can't say I'm surprised, but I think it's a very selfish decision," said Hannah Thoreson of Baltimore, Maryland, who's used Twitter since 2009 for work and personal posts. "There are



A person poses for a photo signing into the Twitter website which is now displaying the new logo for Twitter, in an office in central London, Monday July 24, 2023.

Associated Press

so many small businesses and so many nonprofits and so many government agencies and things like that all around the world that have relied on Twitter for many years to push their message and reach people," she said. "And they all have the Twitter icon on everything from their website to their business cards." Changing all this costs time and money, she added, not to mention the confusion that comes with a previously unknown brand name. "I mean, do you want to get rid of the Coca-Cola brand if you're Coca-Cola? Why would you do that?" said Thoreson, who now primarily uses Mastodon.

Musk, CEO of Tesla, has long been fascinated with the letter and had already renamed Twitter's corporate name to X Corp. after he bought it in October. The billionaire is also CEO of rocket company Space Exploration Technologies Corp., commonly known as SpaceX. And he started an artificial intelligence company this month called xAI to compete with ChatGPT. In 1999, he founded a start-

up called X.com, an online financial services company now known as PayPal. He also calls his son with the singer Grimes, whose actual name is a collection of letters and symbols, "X." Musk's Twitter purchase and rebranding are part of his strategy to create what he's dubbed an "everything app" similar to China's WeChat, which combines video chats, messaging, streaming and payments. Musk has made a number of drastic changes since taking over Twitter, including a shift to focusing on paid subscriptions, but he doesn't always follow through on his attention-grabbing new policy pronouncements.

Linda Yaccarino, the long-time NBC Universal executive Musk tapped to be Twitter CEO in May, posted the new logo and weighed in on the change, writing on Twitter that X would be "the future state of unlimited interactivity centered in audio, video, messaging, payments/banking creating a global marketplace for ideas, goods, services, and opportunities." □

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How David Bowie became a writer on a Chris Young song

By **MARIA SHERMAN**

AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Country star Chris Young's latest single, "Young Love & Saturday Nights," is a vivid love letter to summertime weekends, old trucks, dive bar bands, and crushes. And it might sound immediately familiar: The guitar lick that opens the track is lifted directly from David Bowie's 1974 hit "Rebel Rebel." Bowie is credited posthumously as a songwriter on the track, making it one of the genre-melding icon's few forays into country music noteworthy, because Bowie himself was not quite a fan of the genre.

"I think the only music I didn't listen to was country and western, and that holds to this day," Bowie told NPR's Terry Gross in 2002. "It's much easier for me to say that, the kind of music I didn't listen to was pretty much that."

So how did Bowie, who died in 2016, end up on the track?

Warner Chappell Music became the custodian of Bowie's musical legacy acquiring the worldwide rights to over 400 of his songs, including "Rebel Rebel" when the company purchased his extensive music catalog in 2022.



Chris Young performs at the 56th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn., on April 16, 2021, left, and David Bowie performs during a concert in Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 14, 1995.

Ben Vaughn, president and chief executive officer of Warner Chappell Music Nashville, says his team asked songwriter Jesse Frasure to "get creative using elements from Bowie's catalog to write a new country song. He ended up doing an interpolation of 'Rebel Rebel' and the demo he turned in was an instant smash."

"Getting the call from Bowie's estate and Warner Chappell to creatively explore his catalog was an exciting day," Frasure said

in a statement. "Interpolations to me are a way of tipping a hat to my heroes and maybe even introducing their music to a new audience."

He added that it is an honor to have Bowie's music "be heard in the country genre."

WMC A&R executive Spencer Nohe then pitched the song to Young's team while their legal counsel, Steve Butler, negotiated the deal. Young writes many of his own songs, but when he first heard the demo writ-

ten by Ashley Gorley, Josh Thompson and Frasure, he knew he wanted to record it.

"It tackles universal themes that a lot of people can relate to. That's the end goal of the song: to make you feel like you're in it," Young told The Associated Press. "And the fact that David Bowie's catalog got picked up and they decided to do something special like this, and list him as a songwriter on the song, is a really cool thing."

But how would Bowie him-

self feel about the posthumous collaboration?

"Hate is a strong word," said Tiffany Naiman, UCLA's director of music industry programs and an expert on Bowie, of the icon's feelings toward the genre. "I think he had a very difficult relationship with certain parts of America including country music."

It might have not been his thing, she said, but that didn't mean he never listened to country music. She urges listeners to consider Bowie's documented love of Elvis Presley, who began his career as a country star, and Bowie's cover of the country track "It Ain't Easy" by Ron Davis, recorded during his 1971 "Hunky Dory" sessions and released on 1972's "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars."

Young himself told the AP that he doesn't think his song is "introducing David Bowie to a new genre."

Bowie might not have leaned into country music, Young says, but "if you asked country fans, 'Hey, do you know who David Bowie is?' they're going to name a song. And even if they don't, they're going to recognize the weight of the name." □

Associated Press

Zoe Saldana put self-doubt aside to star in 'Special Ops: Lioness'

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**

Associated Press

Zoe Saldana has starred

in three successful film franchises — "Avatar", "Guardians of the Gal-



Zoe Saldana appears at the premiere of the Paramount+ series "Special Ops: Lioness" in London on July 11, 2023.

Associated Press

axy " and " Star Trek " yet when Taylor Sheridan approached her to lead his new TV series, "Special Ops: Lioness," she said no.

"I have ADD and I'm dyslexic, so learning a lot of dialogue was always very daunting," said Saldana in an interview prior to the start of the actors strike. "I never thought that I would ever get to be a part of (projects) where the dialog and the writing is most important to the whole story. .. I tend to run away from that. I have a hard time focusing, which is why the action genre was always appealing to me."

She says Sheridan called her and was very compli-

mentary, adding that he was writing a character with her in mind. As exciting as the project seemed, she passed.

"I read the pilot, I loved it so much that I freaked out and I walked away from it." A year later she was in Italy filming the limited-series "From Scratch" and found herself once again thinking about that Sheridan offer and brought it up to her husband.

"I guess he was just sick of me always mentioning the show and not doing anything about it. He was like, 'Just call him, just text him.' And the thing about Taylor is that if he's busy and it's not something that he con-

siders important, he won't call you back for weeks. If it's really something that he wants to really hear, he calls back within seconds, so that's exactly what he did.

"He said, 'I'm waiting on you. The script is still here. We haven't done anything with it.

Please say yes.' And I did," Saldana recounted.

After that initial trepidation to take the role, Saldana says her admiration of Sheridan's work has only grown. He wrote each of the show's eight episodes.

"I have a great deal of respect of somebody that really, really believes in what they do," she said. □

Americans finish 1-2 in women's 200-meter medley

By STEPHEN WADE AP Sports Writer

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) —

China won just a single gold medal at last year's swimming world championships in Hungary. But on the second day of this year's competition in Japan, the Chinese claimed two golds in about 10 minutes to open the session.

And they are sure to win more with six days to go in the pool.

The American pair of Kate Douglass and Alex Walsh, college teammates at the University of Virginia, later went 1-2 in the 200-meter individual medley with Yu Yiting of China taking bronze. It was the Americans first gold.

"That was a huge honor for me to do it tonight," said Douglass, who overtook Walsh in the final 50-meter freestyle leg to finish in 2 minutes, 07.17 seconds. "I really just wanted to get the gold for Team USA tonight, and I'm so happy I did that."

Walsh finished in 2:07.97 and Yu in 2:08.74.

The Chinese sweep saw Zhang Yufei win the women's 100 butterfly and Qin Haiyang go wire-to-wire in the men's 100 breaststroke. Zhang rallied over the final



Gold medalist Kate Douglass of United States, center, is flanked by silver medalist Alex Walsh of United States, left, and bronze medalist Yu Yiting of China as they pose during the medals ceremony of the women's 200m medley final at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, Monday, July 24, 2023.

15 meters, touching in 56.12 seconds. Maggie MacNeil of Canada finished second in 56.45, and Torri Huske of the United States clocked 56.61 for third just two years after placing fourth in the event at the Tokyo Olympics. The women's race was a rematch of the final two years ago at the Tokyo Games. The top four finishers in Tokyo were separated by only 14 hundredths of a second. That race

went to MacNeil, followed by Zhang and Australian swimmer Emma McKeon. Huske was .01 behind McKeon and missed out on a medal.

"This is my first gold medal in the world championships," Zhang said, calling her competitors MacNeil, McKeon and Huske "my old friends."

Zhang said she's changed her racing style, holding back on the first leg "and

then going as fast as I can on the last 50."

Qin was never challenged in the 100 breaststroke and finished in 57.69. Three men tied for second in 58.72: Nic Fink of the United States, Nicolo Martinenghi of Italy and Arno Kamming of the Netherlands.

"Everything just went the way I was thinking," Qin said. "And also this is just a start for me. I'm hoping for three gold."

Associated Press

He'll go in the 50 and 200. In the 200, he'll be up against rising French star Leon Marchand, who obliterated Michael Phelps' 400 IM record on Sunday, and Zac Stubblety-Cook — the world champion, Olympic champ and world-record holder from Australia.

His world record is 2:05.95.

The men's 100 breaststroke was partly defined by who did not compete. Adam Peaty, a two-time Olympic champion and world-record holder from Britain, is taking a break and is not swimming in Japan. He has said in interviews that he's taking time away for "mental health issues."

Peaty is one of the most dominant swimmers in his discipline and holds 19 of the top 20 times in the 100 breaststroke. His record is 56.88 seconds.

Thomas Ceccon of Italy won the men's 50 butterfly, which is not an Olympic event, in 22.68. He finished ahead of Diogo Matos Ribeiro of Portugal in 22.80 and Maxime Grousset of France in 22.82.

Ceccon won the race 20 minutes after winning a 100 backstroke semifinal.

"There is no preparation for this," he said. "Just go all out." □

NFL suspends Broncos defensive end Eyioma Uwazurike indefinitely for gambling on games

DENVER (AP) — The NFL indefinitely suspended Denver Broncos defensive end Eyioma Uwazurike on Monday for betting on league games during the 2022 season.

Uwazurike, a fourth-round draft pick from Iowa State in 2022 who played in eight games as a rookie, becomes the 10th player this offseason to be suspended for gambling on games or betting on other sports while in NFL locker rooms. He will be eligible to petition for reinstatement no earlier than July 24, 2024.

"Our organization fully cooperated with this investigation and takes matters pertaining to the integrity

of the game very seriously," the Broncos said in a statement. "The Denver Broncos will continue to provide all members of our organization with the necessary education, resources and support to ensure compliance with the NFL's gambling policy."

NFL players and personnel are not allowed to gamble while in NFL facilities, disclose any nonpublic NFL information, enter a sportsbook during the NFL season, or maintain any social, business or personal relationships with sports gamblers. They are permitted to place non-sports wagers at legally operated casinos and horse or dog rac-

ing tracks on their personal time, including during the season.

The rules have been in place for years, but the league has cracked down on violators as sports gambling becomes legal in more states.

Former Indianapolis cornerback Isaiah Rodgers, linebacker Rashod Berry and free agent Demetrius Taylor were suspended indefinitely last month for betting on NFL games last year. The Colts waived Rodgers and Berry following their suspensions.

Tennessee offensive tackle Nicholas Petie-Frere was suspended for the first six regular-season games for



Denver Broncos defensive end Eyioma Uwazurike looks on during an NFL preseason football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Aug. 27, 2022, in Denver.

Associated Press

betting on non-NFL sports at the club facility. □

Following a historic start, the slumping Rays are suddenly playing catch-up in the AL East

By **FRED GOODALL**
AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

The slumping Tampa Bay Rays believe in themselves. Baseball's best team for much of this season has seen a historic start give way to a July swoon that's loosened its hold on the top record in the American League.

The surging Baltimore Orioles won three of four between the division rivals over the weekend, taking over first place in the AL East and dropping the reeling Rays, who opened the year with 13 consecutive victories, two games off the pace.

Tampa Bay entered July with a season-high 6½-game division lead but has stumbled to an AL-worst 4-14 record this month while sputtering offensively and weathering injuries that are testing the depth of their starting pitching. The Rays haven't compiled one of the best marks in the majors over the last decade without being resourceful and resilient, though, which is one reason manager Kevin Cash is confident his team will rebound and finish strong as it aims for a fifth straight playoff appearance.

"We're just a very talented team that is going through



Tampa Bay Rays' Randy Arozarena hits an RBI single during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Saturday, July 22, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

a tough spot right now," Cash said.

"I'm guessing every guy in there right now is feeling a sense of urgency of wanting to contribute and wanting to be that big swing or have that big swing that gets us going," Cash added after Sunday's 5-3 loss to the Orioles. "It's just not coming right now."

Since winning two straight against last-place Kansas City coming out of the All-Star break, the Rays have dropped seven of eight to fall behind the Orioles.

They've scored three or fewer runs 11 times in July, including five games with one run.

"The hardest part of this game is hitting. ... Our job is to just keep on working, try to stay positive," All-Star first baseman Yandy Diaz said through a translator.

"And we still have a lot of time. We still have about two months or so to go," Diaz added. "We're going to stay focused and stay positive, and I think we're gonna come out of it."

With a projected rotation of

Shane Bieber, Gerrit Cole, Jacob deGrom, Gleyber Torres, and Anthony Rizzo, the Rays entered spring training with expectations of having one of the deepest pitching staffs in the majors.

All five have served stints on the injured list, forcing Cash to constantly adjust pitching plans.

While Bieber (11-1, 2.89 ERA) and Eflin (11-5, 3.36) have been outstanding, Glasnow (left oblique strain) began the season on the injured list and didn't

make his first start until May 27.

Springs (left elbow) was placed on IL after going 2-0 with a 0.56 ERA in three April starts, and Rasmussen (right elbow) was pitching well (4-2, 2.62 in eight starts) when he went down in May. Both will miss the remainder of the year, meaning the Rays may be in the market for some help at the trade deadline.

McClanahan, an All-Star for the second straight season, spent 17 days on the IL due to mid-back tightness before rejoining the rotation on July 17. Eflin missed time in April due to low back tightness but has been everything the Rays hoped they were getting when the former Phillies pitcher signed a \$40 million, three-year contract that's the largest deal for a free agent in Rays history.

"You always hate losing people and having people go down. ... But at the end of the day we're focused on the game that's in front of us, the game today," Eflin said. "Nobody is down in the dumps or anything."

With a potent lineup featuring Diaz and fellow All-Stars Randy Arozarena and Wander Franco, Cash said it's only a matter of time before the offense gets back on track. □



Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan speaks to the media about hosting the NBA All-Star basketball game during a news conference, Feb. 12, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

By **STEVE REED**
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

The NBA Board of Governors has voted to approve

Michael Jordan's sale of the Charlotte Hornets to an ownership group led by Gabe Plotkin and Rick Schnall, according to a

NBA Board of Governors approves Michael Jordan's sale of the Charlotte Hornets

person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Sunday on condition of anonymity because the sale won't become official for at least another week. The decision ends Jordan's 13-year run as majority owner of the franchise. He will remain on as a minority owner. Jordan agreed to sell the team on June 16. However, when an NBA owner decides to sell it first must be approved by the league's Board of Governors. Jordan's decision to sell leaves the NBA without

a Black majority owner. Plotkin has been a minority stakeholder with the Hornets since 2019, while Schnall has been a minority owner of the Atlanta Hawks since 2015. He has been forced to sell his investment in that team. The sale price is reportedly around \$3 billion, according to ESPN.

As an owner Jordan never came close to matching his success as a player, where he won six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls while becoming one of the game's greatest play-

ers ever. Charlotte went 423-600 under Jordan, the 26th-best record over that span. The Hornets never won a playoff series in that time and haven't been to the postseason in the past seven seasons.

The owner members of the Hornets new ownership group include artist J. Cole, Dan Sundheim, Ian Loring, country music singer-songwriter Eric Church, Chris Shumway and several local Charlotte investors, including Amy Levine Dawson and Damian Mills. □